

STATE PROFILE | GEDAREF



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KEY  
FACTS



**159,986**  
school-aged children  
are out-of-school.



Under-five mortality  
rate stands at  
**77 per cent**  
compared to 68 per  
cent nationally.



Only **half** of the  
**population** has  
access to water  
supply and just a  
**quarter to sanitation**  
facilities.



More than  
**20 per cent**  
of birth are not  
registered.

# SITUATION IN GEDAREF

## Demography<sup>1</sup>

The population of Gedaref state is 2.5 million people, with an annual growth of about five (5) per cent. The average household size is 5.5 people. There are 279,181 adolescents (aged 14-19). Most of the population does not enjoy their full rights and most have significant humanitarian and development needs. The state consists of ethnic groups representing different tribes. This diverse social structure has been formed due to migrations following the Mahdist revolution, which resulted in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society.

## Refugees: 77,376

Due to the conflict and tension in the Horn of Africa, many people fled to Sudan with the majority staying in the border localities, such as Gedaref and neighbouring Kassala. Based on UNHCR data (2022) 11,963 refugees from Ethiopian and Somalia are currently hosted in Um Grgour camp, while around 7,048 are living in urban areas competing with host communities over scarce resources. Migration has a serious impact on children especially in the issues related to violence and trafficking. As result of conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region 50,965 Ethiopian refugees have entered Eastern Sudan since November 2020. Out of them, 23,617 have been settled in Tanyetba and 19,973 in Um Rakuba (UNHCR 2022).

## Host communities: 1,000,000

More than one million people of the local population are living in areas hosting refugees and migrants Which put additional burden on the already overstretched social services making these communities extra vulnerable.



<sup>1</sup> Data from the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS): prognosis for 2018, based on 2008 population data.

## Geography

Gadarif state is located in the east of Sudan and borders Ethiopia in the east, Gezira State in the west, Sennar State in the south, Khartoum in the northwest and Kassala in the north. The total area of the state is 75,263 square kilometers. The state is divided into 12 localities (Basunda, Central Gedaref, El Butana, El Fashaga, El Faw, El Quresha, El Rahad, Gedaref Town, East Galabat, South Galabat, West Galabat, Gala' El Nanal), and 21 administrative units. The capital of the state is Gadarif Town, with 468,743 inhabitants representing 20 per cent of the state's population and this due to internal movement to the urban area for many socioeconomic factors like availability of social services and Job opportunities.

## Climate

As many parts of Sudan, the climate in Gedaref is semi-tropical, with hot and rainy summers. The rainy season has a length of approximately four months (between June and September), with an average annual rainfall of 700 to 900 millimeters. Climate change is a concern in Gedaref state, as fluctuations in rainfall put the population in a critical situation, as it affects food diversity and ground water recharge, and subsequently the nutritional status of children.

## Economy

Gedaref state is a well-known agricultural area where mechanised farming schemes were introduced in 1954. About 70 per cent of the total mechanised farming in the Sudan is carried-out in Gedaref and two thirds of the state population works in the sector. The total arable land is 8.6 million fedan (measurement term used in Egypt and Sudan. 1 fedan = 1,038 acres), of which around seven million is used to cash crops like sesame, sorghum, beans, sunflowers, and citrus fruits, while livestock in Gedaref state is estimated at 7.6 million heads of cattle. Full dependence on rainfall for agriculture, characterized by severe annual fluctuation, still threatens people's livelihoods. Inflation rate in Gadarif accelerated from 49.3 in 2019 to 169.3 in 2020 as the result of macroeconomic policies, reform and political instability.



# HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

## Continued Population Movement

Refugees and migrants represent a high proportion of the population of the state. Gedaref hosts around 50,965 refugees and has been a safe haven for many migrants from different part of Sudan as seasonal agriculture labour. Sustaining services to refugees and migrants and responding to the needs of a steadily growing number of refugees in the border localities will require additional resources and coordination between all stakeholders.



## Chronic Malnutrition and Poor Social Indicators

According to 2014 data (MICS), Gedaref state's nutrition indicators are among the worst indicators as the global wasting percentage was above the emergency threshold (15 per cent), and stunting was also high (46 per cent). The state is among the worst performing 10 states in Sudan when it comes to the practice of open defecation (43 per cent) as only 10 per cent of Gedaref's population has access to sanitation facilities, while only 28 per cent of the state population have access to safe drinking water. On the other hand, Gedaref has good immunisation coverage (87 per cent) and remarkable achievement in skilled attendance during deliveries. The prevalence of female genital mutilation

(FGM) among women is 29 per cent child, while child marriage is 15 per cent before the age of 15, and 49 per cent before the age of 18. Eighty (80) per cent of new borns are registered at birth. Education data shows that the net intake rate in primary education is 34 per cent, which is considered low compared to the national indicator (77 per cent).<sup>2</sup>

Although the Government of Sudan and partners made many efforts to address the poor social indicators, an integrated approach where multiple services are delivered in an integrated manner, is key to addressing the root causes of social issues and inequalities.

## Border Conflict and Social Cohesion

In the past couple of years, social cohesion in Gedaref state has decreased due to tribal conflict in East Galabat locality. Conflict-sensitive programming is essential for improving social cohesion and resilience, empowering young people to lead development and play key roles as change actors in their communities. Recent tension in the border area between Sudan and Ethiopia and conflict around El Fashaga locality may affect stability in Gedaref state and may lead to new displacement. Strengthening the governmental and non-governmental response systems is crucial for an effective humanitarian response.

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Institute of Statistics, data as of September 2020.

# KEY RESULTS IN 2021

Unicef budget for Gedaref:  
**USD 9,660,310**  
 as of 1 April 2022

Funds received ▶ **52%**

Funding gap ▶ **48%**



**16,470** severely acutely malnourished children (6,753 girls, 9,717 boys) were admitted for treatment.

**28,912** children (15,034 girls and 13,878 boys) were reached with measles vaccination and **24,730** children under-five (12,860 girls and 11,870 boys) received integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) services.

**51** communities were declared as open defecation free (ODF), with **27,302** people reached with sanitation facilities.

**3,900** out-of-school children (2,340 girls and 1,560 boys) enrolled in grade one with direct support from UNICEF.

**65,904** children (36,338 girls and 29,566 boys) in humanitarian situation received subsidies, scholarships, grants, social assistance and/or learning materials from UNICEF to attend school.

**49,042** children in humanitarian situations benefitting from psychosocial support.

**1,587** children benefited from legal and psychosocial services, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, provided by the Family and Child Protection Unit in the state.